

Carolinas earlier this month. The mission is far from over, but the Federal response has been swift, and the National Guard units from across the country have been working together to help in the recovery efforts.

Proudly, members of the Pennsylvania National Guard are helping to provide shelter support. The level of professionalism and training shown during this recovery by guardsmen from across the country is commendable.

Mr. Speaker, there are many aspects of the recovery effort, including food assistance. I am pleased that USDA acted quickly to announce Disaster SNAP. Households that may not normally be eligible for SNAP or food stamps may qualify for Disaster SNAP.

Providing food assistance to neighbors in need is exactly why the SNAP program exists. Food security is an important step toward bringing back normalcy and stability for families impacted by the disaster.

Mr. Speaker, as our fellow Americans begin putting their lives back together, I am pleased to know that they will have help every step of the way.

PUBLIC CHARGE RULE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security announced a proposed rule change that would increase the number of immigrants considered a public charge.

This rule change is a dangerous departure from our current immigration policy. The administration is hurting immigrant families, including families that are U.S. citizens, by penalizing those who seek a green card or visa and use programs like SNAP, housing assistance, or Medicaid.

This rule has the potential to impact about 1.8 million Texas children whose parents may forego critical needs like food and health assistance for their families in fear that, if they use these programs, it will hinder their access to citizenship. This is another step by the Trump administration to restrict immigration into the country.

In Houston, we have a long history of immigrants and newcomers bringing innovation, entrepreneurship, and hard work. It has made Houston what it is today. From the separation of our families at the southern border to punishing immigrant families for using programs they legally qualify for, I am deeply saddened by this administration's constant disregard for the children and their families.

THE CRIB ACT

(Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R.

6, which we are voting on here today. H.R. 6 includes my legislation, the Caring Recovery for Infants and Babies Act, known as the CRIB Act.

The most innocent victims of the opioid crisis are the precious newborn babies that were exposed to drugs during pregnancy. It simply breaks your heart.

Three years ago, I helped start Lily's Place in my hometown, a healthcare facility that has provided compassionate, loving healthcare to more than 200 newborn babies going through the ravages of withdrawal after birth.

Passing the CRIB Act today will allow this one-of-a-kind program to be replicated around the country so every child gets the best possible chance for a healthy start in life.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my fellow Members to vote "yes" on H.R. 6, the CRIB Act.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION BILL

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the House passage of the FAA reauthorization bill, and I am delighted that the conference agreement includes provisions from my bill, the Safeguarding America's Skies Act. These provisions provide the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice with the authority to use counterdrone technology to detect, monitor, and interdict drones that pose a threat to the safety and security of our country.

We must face the reality that drone technology is being exploited to advance crime and threaten our national security. Drones are used to smuggle illegal drugs across borders and contraband into prisons. On the other side of the globe, terrorist groups are using drones to target U.S. forces and coalition partners.

Unfortunately, under current law, most Federal agencies are prohibited from engaging with drones due to various outdated laws. This legislation will provide our Federal law enforcement agencies with the tools necessary to protect U.S. citizens from criminal and nefarious acts. Our skies will be safer and our families will be safer.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, as well as the many advocacy groups, health organizations, and constituents working with our offices, for ensuring an extension of the Violence Against Women Act while a long-term reauthorization is finalized. This is a crucial first step toward ensuring that victims of violence continue to have the

resources they rely on and our law enforcement officers can keep up the fight against domestic violence and sex crimes.

VAWA is a landmark piece of legislation enacted over two decades ago. It plays two very important roles: first, to prevent against violent crimes against women; and second, to provide care and assistance to women who were victims of violent crimes.

VAWA has enhanced domestic violence and stalking penalties, added protections for abused elderly and disabled women, helped to fight against sex trafficking, and addressed the rape kit backlog in many States.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues toward a long-term reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

HEALTH EQUITY AND ACCESS FOR RETURNING TROOPS AND SERVICEMEMBERS ACT OF 2018

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6886) to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the requirement for certain former members of the Armed Forces to enroll in Medicare Part B to be eligible for TRICARE for Life, and to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of certain DNA specimen provenance assay tests under the Medicare program, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6886

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Health Equity and Access for Returning Troops and Servicemembers Act of 2018" or the "HEARTS Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES TO ENROLL IN MEDICARE PART B TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR TRICARE FOR LIFE.

(a) TRICARE ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d) of section 1086 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(6)(A) The requirement in paragraph (2)(A) to enroll in the supplementary medical insurance program under part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395j et seq.) shall not apply to a person described in subparagraph (B) during any month in which such person is not entitled to a benefit described in subparagraph (A) of section 226(b)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 426(b)(2)) if such person has received the counseling and information under subparagraph (C).